

# Software Diversification for WebAssembly

JAVIER CABRERA-ARTEAGA

Doctoral Thesis in Computer Science Supervised by Benoit Baudry and Martin Monperrus

Stockholm, Sweden, 2023

KTH Royal Institute of Technology
School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Division of Software and Computer Systems
TRITA-EECS-AVL-2020:4
SE-10044 Stockholm
ISBN 100-Sweden

Akademisk avhandling som med tillstånd av Kungl Tekniska högskolan framlägges till offentlig granskning för avläggande av Teknologie doktorexamen i elektroteknik i .

© Javier Cabrera-Arteaga , date

Tryck: Universitetsservice US AB

#### Abstract

Keywords: Lorem, Ipsum, Dolor, Sit, Amet

#### Sammanfattning

### LIST OF PAPERS

WebAssembly Diversification for Malware Evasion
 Javier Cabrera-Arteaga, Tim Toady, Martin Monperrus, Benoit Baudry
 Computers & Security, Volume 131, 2023, 17 pages
 https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S01674048230
 02067

2. Wasm-mutate: Fast and Effective Binary Diversification for WebAssembly

**Javier Cabrera-Arteaga**, Nicholas Fitzgerald, Martin Monperrus, Benoit Baudry

Under review, 17 pages

https://arxiv.org/pdf/2309.07638.pdf

3. Multi-Variant Execution at the Edge

**Javier Cabrera-Arteaga**, Pierre Laperdrix, Martin Monperrus, Benoit Baudry

Moving Target Defense (MTD 2022), 12 pages

https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/3560828.3564007

4. CROW: Code Diversification for WebAssembly

**Javier Cabrera-Arteaga**, Orestis Floros, Oscar Vera-Pérez, Benoit Baudry, Martin Monperrus

Measurements, Attacks, and Defenses for the Web (MADWeb 2021), 12 pages https://doi.org/10.14722/madweb.2021.23004

5. Superoptimization of WebAssembly Bytecode

**Javier Cabrera-Arteaga**, Shrinish Donde, Jian Gu, Orestis Floros, Lucas Satabin, Benoit Baudry, Martin Monperrus

Conference Companion of the 4th International Conference on Art, Science, and Engineering of Programming (Programming 2021), MoreVMs, 4 pages https://doi.org/10.1145/3397537.3397567

6. Scalable Comparison of JavaScript V8 Bytecode Traces
Javier Cabrera-Arteaga, Martin Monperrus, Benoit Baudry
11th ACM SIGPLAN International Workshop on Virtual Machines and
Intermediate Languages (SPLASH 2019), 10 pages
https://doi.org/10.1145/3358504.3361228

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

# Contents

List of Papers					
Acl	Acknowledgement  Contents				
Co					
I	Thesis		2		
1 Introduction					
1.	1 The ris	sks of WebAssembly monoculture	4		
1.5	2 Proble:	ms statements	5		
1.3		re Diversification	6		
1.4		ary of research papers	7		
			·		
2	Backgrou	and and state of the art	10		
2.	1 WebAs	sembly	10		
	2.1.1	From source code to WebAssembly	11		
	2.1.2	Extending WebAssembly	14		
	2.1.3	WebAssembly's binary format	14		
	2.1.4	WebAssembly's runtime	15		
	2.1.5	WebAssembly's control-flow	17		
	2.1.6		18		
	2.1.7	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	20		
2.5	2 Softwa	re diversification	20		
	2.2.1	Generation of Software Variants	20		
	2.2.2		23		
	2.2.3	Variants deployment	$\frac{24}{24}$		
	2.2.4	- *	$\frac{21}{25}$		
	2.2.4 $2.2.5$	Offensive Diversification	26		
	2.2.6	Open challenges	$\frac{20}{27}$		

2 CONTENTS

3 A	utomatic	Software Diversification for WebAssembly	<b>29</b>
3.1	CROW:	Code Randomization of WebAssembly	30
	3.1.1	Enumerative synthesis	31
	3.1.2	Constant inferring	32
	3.1.3	Exemplifying CROW	33
3.2	MEWE:	Multi-variant Execution for WebAssembly	35
	3.2.1	Multivariant call graph	36
	3.2.2	Exemplifying a Multivariant binary	36
3.3	WASM-MUTATE: Fast and Effective Binary Diversification for		
	WebAss	v	39
	3.3.1	WebAssembly Rewriting Rules	40
	3.3.2 $3.3.3$	E-Graphs traversals	41 42
0.4		- • •	
3.4	Compar 3.4.1	ing CROW, MEWE, and WASM-MUTATE	44
	3.4.1	Security applications	47
4 E	xploiting	Software Diversification for WebAssembly	49
4.1	Offensiv	e Diversification: Malware evasion	49
	4.1.1	Cryptojacking defense evasion	50
	4.1.2	Methodology	51
	4.1.3	Results	53
4.2		ve Diversification: Speculative Side-channel protection	56
	4.2.1	Threat model: speculative side-channel attacks	58
	4.2.2	Methodology	58
	4.2.3	Results	60
5 C	onclusio	ns and Future Work	65
5.1	Summar	ry of technical contributions	65
5.2	Summar	ry of empirical findings	67
5.3	Future V	Work	68
II In	cluded	papers	69
Super	roptimiza	tion of WebAssembly Bytecode	71
_	_	Diversification for WebAssembly	72
		·	73
Multi-Variant Execution at the Edge			
WebAssembly Diversification for Malware Evasion			74

CONTENTS	3
----------	---

Wasm-mutate: Fast and Effective Binary Diversification for WebAssembly	<b>7</b> 5
Scalable Comparison of JavaScript V8 Bytecode Traces	<b>7</b> 6

## Part I

# Thesis